

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 of the specification as follows:

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/455,505 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Controlling Position of a Laser of a MALDI Mass Spectrometer" which was filed on March 17, 2003 by J. Reilly et al., and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. ~~60/455,716~~ 60/455,714, entitled "MALDI Mass Spectrometer Having a Laser Steering Assembly and Method of Operating the Same" which was filed on March 17, 2003 by J. Reilly et al., both of which are expressly incorporated by reference herein.